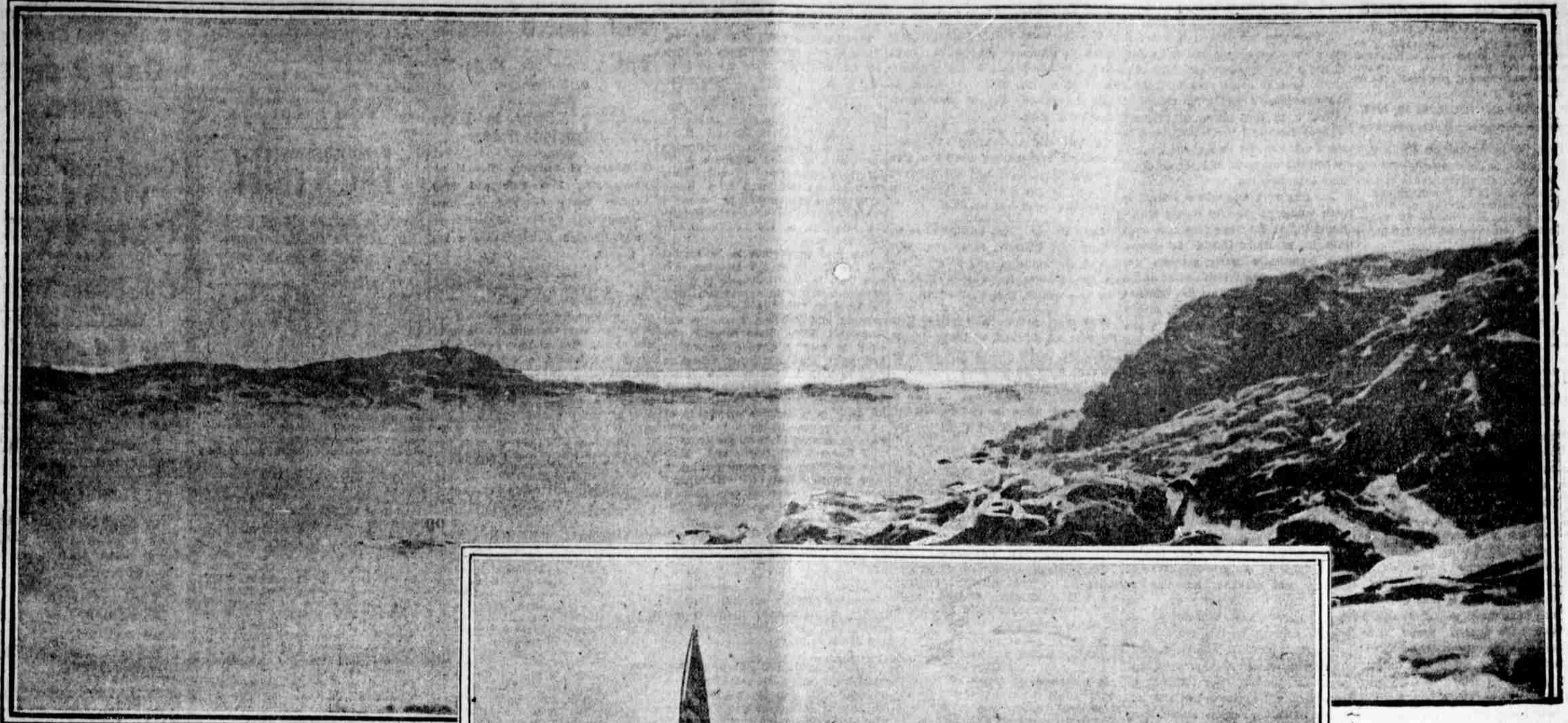


DR. COOK TELLS HOW HIS EXPEDITION HEADED TOWARD THE UNKNOWN IN SUPREME EFFORT TO REACH THE POLE



THE MIDNIGHT SUN PHOTOGRAPHED BY DR. COOK DURING HIS JOURNEY TO THE POLE.
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Party Reduced to Two Eskimos and 26 Dogs for the Final Great Dash

Everything Was Sacrificed to Progress as the Explorers Started on Last Lap of the Journey.

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AT THE POLE APRIL 21, 1909, DR. COOK PHOTOGRAPHED HIS ESKIMO COMPANIONS STANDING ON EITHER SIDE OF THE STARS AND STRIPES. PHOTO. COPYRIGHT, 1909, BY THE N.Y. HERALD CO. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

With Eleven Men and 103 Dogs, Expedition Left the Winter Base February 19.

TEMPERATURE 83 BELOW ZERO

but for the returning parties and for the security of the things at Annotok. It was difficult at this time to even guess at the probable line of our return to land. Much depended upon conditions encountered in the northward route. Though we had left caches of supplies with the object of returning along Nansen Sound into Cannon Fjord and over Atther Land I entertained grave doubts of our ability to return that way. If the ice drifted strongly to the east we might not have the choice of working out our own return. In that event we might be carried perhaps helplessly to Greenland and must seek a return either along the east coast or the west coast.

This drift did not offer a dangerous hardship, for the musk oxen would keep us alive to the west, and to the east it seemed possible to reach Shannon Island, where the Baldwin-Ziegler expedition had abandoned a large cache of supplies. It appeared not improbable also that a large land extension might offer a safe return much farther west.

Because of this uncertainty Franks was instructed to wait until June 5, 1909, and if we did not return he was told to place Kooloongwah in charge and go home, either by the whalers or by the Danish ships to the south.

No relief which he could offer would help us, and to wait for an indefinite time alone would have inflicted a needless hardship. This and many other instructions were prepared for Kooloongwah and Inuit to take back.

In the morning the frost in crystals had been swept from the air, but there remained a humid chill which pierced to the bones. The temperature was minus 55 Fahrenheit. A light air came from the west and the sun burned in a freezing blue.

After a few hours' march the ice changed in character. The extensive thick fields gave place to moderate snow fields. The snow was separated by ridges of translucent crushed ice thrown into high pressure ridges, which offered serious barriers, but with the ice axe and Eskimo agility we managed to make fair progress.

The second run on the polar sea was with twenty-one miles to our credit. I had expected to send the supporting party back from here, but progress had not been as good as expected. We could hardly spare the food to feed the dogs, so they volunteered to push along another day without dog food.

On the next day, with increasing difficulties in some troublesome ice, we camped, after making only sixteen miles. Here a small snow house was built, and from here, after disposing of a pot of steaming musk ox loins and broth, followed by a double brew of tea, our last helpers returned.

With empty sleds and hungry dogs they sped to reach land in one long day's travel. But this would make the fourth day without food for their dogs, and in case of storm or moving ice other days of famine might easily fall to their lot. They had, however, an abundance of dogs and might sacrifice a few for the benefit of the others, as we must often do.

End of Fifth Instalment.

SYNOPSIS OF CHAPTERS PRINTED

In the first instalment of his thrilling story, "The Conquest of the Pole," printed in the HERALD of Wednesday, September 15, Dr. Frederick A. Cook told of the start from Gloucester on the Bradley, of the voyage to the polar sea and of the overhauling of the equipment needed for the dash to the pole.

In a graphic manner the discoverer wrote a story of Eskimo life that never has been excelled for human interest. He told of the home life, the tragedy and comedy that mingle in the dreary existence of the dwellers in the Arctic, and of the childlike eagerness of the natives to trade their valuable furs and ivory for the simplest things of civilization.

The yacht, her owner, Mr. John R. Bradley, the explorer and his party were pictured in their preliminary work for the final dash.

Finally, after describing the various places visited in Greenland in search of guides and information as to conditions further north, Dr. Cook wrote of the trip across Inglefield Gulf, past Cape Anckland and on toward Cape Robertson.

Here, the discoverer closed the first part of his narrative, with Etah and Annotok, the last points of call, looming in the icy distance.

In the second instalment Dr. Cook described the voyage to Etah and then on to Annotok, the place of plenty, which he selected as the base for his dash to the pole.

In the third instalment the explorer describes the work of preparing his winter quarters, closing with a graphic description of a narwhal hunt.

In the fourth instalment Dr. Cook describes the approach of the long Arctic night, which caused his party at Annotok to become very active in preparing for the dash to the pole.

Fifth instalment

THE CONQUEST OF THE POLE.

By Dr. Frederick A. Cook.

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EARLY in January of 1908 the campaign opened. A few sleds were sent to the American shores to explore a route and to advance supplies.

Clouds and storms made the moonlight days dark and therefore, these advance expeditions were only partly successful.

On February 19, 1908, the main expedition started for the pole. Eleven men, driving one hundred and three dogs and moving eleven heavily loaded sleds, left the Greenland shore and pushed westward, over the troublesome ice of Smith Sound, to Cape Sabine.

The gloom of the long winter night was but little relieved by a few hours of daylight, and the temperature was very low.

Passing through a valley between Ellesmere Land and Grinnell Land from the head of Engler Bay in crossing to the Pacific slopes the temperature fell to 81 degrees below zero Fahrenheit.

In Bay Fjord many musk oxen were secured, and though the winter front was at its lowest there was little wind and with an abundance of fresh meat and also fat for fuel the life in the snow house proved fairly comfortable.

The ice in Eureka and Nansen sounds proved fairly smooth, and long marches were made, with an abundance of game, musk ox, bear and hares. We found it quite unnecessary to use the supplies taken from Greenland. Caches of food and ammunition were left along Heiberg Island for the return.

Willful Savage Hands. Thus we managed to keep in game trails and in excellent fighting trim to the end of known lands. Camping in the chill of the frowning cliffs of the northernmost coast (Svartevog), we looked out over the heavy ice of the polar seas through eyes which had been hardened to the worst polar environments.

There was at hand an abundance of supplies, with willing savage hands and a superabundance of brute force in overfed polar bears, but for a greater certainty of action over the unknown regions beyond I resolved to reduce the force to the smallest numbers consistent with the execution of the problem in hand.

We had travelled nearly four hundred miles in twenty-eight days. There remained a line of five hundred and twenty miles of unknown trouble to be overcome before our goal could be reached. For this final task we were provided with every conceivable device to ease this hard lot, but in addition to a reduced party I now definitely resolved to simplify the entire equipment. At Svartevog a big cache was made. In this cache fresh meat, tundra, pemmican and much other food, together with all discarded articles of equipment, were left.

In the northward advance every factor of the dog train had been carefully watched and studied to provide a perfect working force for the final reach over the Polar Sea. Etah and Ahwah, two young Eskimos, each twenty years old, had been chosen as best fitted to my sole companions in the long run of destiny. Twenty-six dogs were picked and upon two sleds were loaded all our needs for a stay of eighty days.

All for Progress. To have increased this party would not have enabled us to carry supplies for a greater number of days. The sleds might have been loaded more heavily, but this would reduce the important progress of the first days.

With the character of ice which we had before us advance stations were impossible. A large expedition and a heavy equipment seemed imprudent. We must win or lose in a prolonged effort at high pressure and, therefore, absolute control and ease of adaptability to a changing environment must be assured.

It is impossible to adequately control the complex human temperament of unknown men in the polar wilderness, but the two Eskimo boys could be trusted to follow to the limit of my own endeavor, and our sleds were burdened only with absolute necessities.

Because of the importance of a light and efficient equipment much care was taken to eliminate every ounce of weight. The sleds were made of hickory, the lightest wood consistent with great endurance, but every needless fibre was gouged out. The iron shoes were ground thin, and in every way the weight of nearly everything was reduced even after leaving headquarters.

The little train, therefore, which followed me into the further mystery was composed of two sleds, each carrying six hundred pounds, drawn by thirteen dogs, under the lash of an expert driver. The combined freight was as follows:—Pemmican, 805 pounds; musk ox tenderloin, 60 pounds; tundra, 25 pounds; tea, 2 pounds; coffee, 1 pound; sugar, 25 pounds; condensed milk, 40 pounds; milk biscuits, 60 pounds; pea soup, powdered and compressed, 10 pounds; surprises, 5 pounds; petroleum, 40 pounds; wood alcohol, 2

pounds; candles, 3 pounds; matches, 1 pound.

The camp equipment included the following articles:—1 blow lamp (Jewell), 3 aluminum pails, 3 aluminum cups, 3 aluminum teaspoons, 1 tablespoon, 3 tin plates, 6 pocket knives, 2 butcher knives (10 inches), 1 saw knife (13 inches), 1 long knife (15 inches), 1 rifle (Sharps), 1 rifle (Winchester, 22), 110 cartridges, 1 hatchet, 1 alpine axe, extra line and lashing, 6 personal bags.

The sled equipment was 2 sleds, weighing 54 pounds each; 1 12-foot folding canvas boat, 34 pounds; 1 silk tent, 2 canvas sled covers, 2 sleeping bags (reindeer skin), floor furs, extra wood for sled repairs, screws, nails and rivets.

The instruments were as follows:—3 compasses, 1 sextant, 1 artificial horizon, 1 watch, 3 pocket chronometers, 1 aneroid barometer, 1 camera and film, note books and pencils.

The personal bags contained four extra pairs of kamiks, with fur stockings, a woolen shirt, three pairs of seal-skin mittens, two pairs of fur mittens, a piece of blanket, a seal-skin coat (tundra), a repair kit for mending clothing and dog harness, extra fox tails.

At this time on the march we wore snow goggles, blue fox coats (kapitaks), birdskin shirts, woolen drawers, bearskin pants, kamiks and hareskin stockings. We fastened a band of fox tails under the knee and about the waist.

Helping the Advance.

On the morning of March 18 preparations were made to divide the party. The advance must be helped over the rough ice of the pack edge, and for this purpose Kooloongwah and Inuit were selected. The other six Eskimos prepared to return. One sled was left with the cache to insure a good vehicle for our return in case the two sleds were badly broken on route.

A half gale was blowing into Nansen Sound from the northwest, but this did not interfere with the starting of those home going Eskimos. With abundant game for the return they required little but ammunition to supply their wants.

When the word was given to start the dogs were gathered and the sleds were

spanned with a jump. Soon they disappeared in the rush of driving snow. The crack of the whips and the rebound of clashing voices was the last which we heard of the faithful savage supporters.

They had followed not for pay, but for a real desire to be helpful, from the dark days of the ending of night to the bright nights of the coming double days, and their parting enforced a pang of loneliness.

With a snow charged blast in our faces it was quite impossible for us to start, so we withdrew to the snow igloo, entered our bags and slept a few hours longer. At noon the horizon cleared, the wind veered to the southwest and came within endurable force. The dogs had been doubly fed the night before; they were not to be fed again for two days. The twelve hundred pounds of freight were packed on our sleds, and quickly we slipped around deep grooves in the great snowdrifts.

The snow had been swept from the ice by the force of the preceding storm, and the speed attained by the dogs through even rough ice was such that it was almost to keep far enough ahead to get a good course.

Any crevasses and pressure lines gave little trouble at first, but the hard irregularity of the aged ice offered a dangerous surface for the life of our sleds, passing through blue gorges among miniature mountains of sea ice. On a course slightly west of north we soon passed the bold headland which rises at the northern point of Heiberg Island.

Camp is Pitched.

After a run of twenty-six miles we pitched camp on a floeberg of unusual height. There were many big hummocks about, to the lee of which were great banks of hardened snow. Away from land it is always more difficult to find snow suitable for cutting building blocks, but here was an abundance conveniently placed. In the course of an hour a comfortable palace of crystal was erected, and into it we crept out of the piercing wind. The first day's march over the circum-polar sea was closed with a good record.

The dogs curled up and went to sleep without a call, as if they knew there would be no food until the morrow. My wild companions covered their faces with their convoluted long hair and sank quietly into a comfortable slumber, but for me sleep was quite impossible. Letting must be written. The whole problem of our campaign must be again carefully studied, and final plans must be made not only to reach our ultimate destination

Next Page of Dr. Cook's Story Will Appear Friday.